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## Maker Faire and the R & D Rise in the South

The majority of the world's research and development (R & D) in science and technology is now shifting to the global South. Powerhouses like China boast vast numbers of published papers in peer-reviewed journals and hefty cash inputs into research and development.

China increased its R and D spending in 2009 to US \$25.7 billion, a hefty 25.6 percent increase over 2008, according to Du Zhanyuan, vice minister of the Ministry of Science and Technology. China is rapidly closing the science funding gap with Japan: in 2009 it allotted US \$37.1 billion for R & D.

The times have never been better for those with new ideas in the global South. And it's not just big companies that are involved. There is R & D going on at ground level as well. African inventors, innovators and creatives met in Nairobi, Kenya in August as part of the Maker Faire Africa 2010 (<http://makerfaireafrica.com>). This is research and development on a shoestring, and done in a very practical, problem-solving way. While Africa's inventors and innovators lack the big budgets of other economies, they are not short on ideas and drive.

The Maker Faire Africa is a family-friendly gathering where the inventors can showcase their work and connect with others. It is a mix of workshops, tips on business skills, awards and a party.

The global economy thrives on innovation and so-called 'creative destruction' – as economist Joseph Schumpeter called it ([http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Creative\\_destruction](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Creative_destruction)) – that takes place as out-of-date technologies and ways of doing are surpassed by better ideas and more efficient methods. The power to innovate is the deciding factor for sustained economic growth.

The philosophy behind Maker Faire Africa 2010 – the brainchild of 'venture catalyst' and entrepreneur Emeka Okafor (<http://timbuktuchronicles.blogspot.com>) – is to prove that innovation doesn't just happen with computers.

As its website says, "The aim of a Maker Faire-like event is to create a space on the continent where Afrigadget-type innovations (<http://www.afrigadget.com>), inventions and initiatives can be sought, identified, brought to life, supported, amplified, propagated, etc."

Maker Faire Africa is working with research organizations like Ghana's Ashesi University (<http://www.ashesi.edu.gh/index.html>) and Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (<http://www.knust.edu.gh/pages>) "to sharpen focus on locally-generated, bottom-up prototypes of technologies that solve immediate challenges to development."

In the end, the goal of engaging all this creative and inventive energy is to spur Africans towards building "a manufacturing base that supplies innovative products in response to market needs."

This initiative stands out in several ways: it is truly inspiring, it gets to the core of how wealth is created, and helps build communities of innovators and inventors to tackle the problems facing Africa – and humanity.

"We have a broader variety of makers this time around,"

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says Emeke Okafor of the 2010 Maker Faire. He notes makers are bringing more complex systems to the Faire, rather than just single devices. And that they "have more makers who are actually from the region."

"Maker Faire Africa is essentially a platform whereby innovators, inventors, creative types, across all disciplines, share ideas, showcase their products, interact with attendees and other makers," he continues. They "begin the process of building what we think is an essential community of what I like to term the productive class. That is essentially where we see ourselves playing a key role. A productive class whose foundation is laid upon building problem-solving systems."

Okafor believes Africa just doesn't "have enough wealth creation as we should."

"We have things backwards. ... One of the essential steps is that you had productive systems that allowed those countries (Asia and Europe) to create wealth. And they had to draw those resources from within.

"We see Maker Fair Africa celebrating resources that we already have, with knowledge from within and outside.

"In many ways the Makers as we see them, epitomise the very sense of problem-solving that as a society acquires more of it, it begins to deal with its challenges very differently. And not look elsewhere in terms of dealing with its challenges. We want to make our Makers sexy, we want to make inventors sexy, innovators celebrities."

Some of the inspiring inventors from this year's Faire include Norbert Okec from Uganda. His prototype for a solar powered street lighting system comes straight from his frustration with the traffic lights of Kampala, Uganda. Many don't work and so he has developed a prototype solar-powered traffic light using a mix of recycled local parts and some LEDs ([http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Light-emitting\\_diode](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Light-emitting_diode)) brought by a friend from China.

He hopes to produce an e-book on his invention to share with other inventors. He was joined by fellow inventors working on a dashboard for managing wireless networks, recycling plastic parts, solar-power torches, water and sanitation products, junk art, community cookers, sculptures, eye glasses, bicycles, and an automatic lighting system for homes.

Okafor is a passionate advocate of the Maker philosophy and how it changes the game: "...building is equivalent to making and making is a joyful thing, it is an interesting thing. It is a very satisfactory thing. It is not work. Most of the individuals around here have the biggest smiles on their faces. They don't see what they are doing as work.

"The fact they are sitting next to other people like them if anything is one of the biggest take-aways for them. Because for some of them they were toiling away on their own. Now they see others like them. And they realise they aren't crazy.

"When you build a community and the community begins to get stronger and sustain itself, all the other things come naturally: businesses get formed, partnerships happen: and then everything else people look for first... actually begins to happen."

And Africa's future prosperity is what is at stake at the Faire: "There is a market for the products. And we believe as more individuals – Africans and otherwise – come into contact with what is on display, they will come to see their own societies differently. "

## Links

Flickr photo gallery: A clickable archive of the Maker Faire inventors and their inventions.

Website:

<http://www.flickr.com/groups/makerfaireafrica/pool/>

Afrigadget: 'Solving everyday problems with African ingenuity': This blog never ceases to amaze and

fascinate.

Website: <http://www.afrigadget.com/>

Afrobotics: A competition for African engineering students to develop robots

Website: <http://www.afrobotics.com/>

International Development Design Summit: The Summit is an intense, hands-on design experience that brings together people from all over the world and all walks of life to create technologies and enterprises that improve the lives of people living in poverty.

Website: <http://iddsummit.org/>

Butterflyworks: A social design studio using design to make social change. They use media, social branding and experiential learning to share knowledge, trigger creativity and build sustainable businesses.

Website: <http://www.butterflyworks.org>

AshokaTECH: AshokaTECH is a blog about technology and invention within the realm of social entrepreneurship. It aims to find, support, and celebrate social innovators whose technologies offer fresh, effective approaches to advancing social change.

Website: <http://tech.ashoka.org/>

## Wireless Internet Culture Helping Zimbabwe Economy Recover

Zimbabwe's turbulent descent into hyperinflation at the beginning of the 2000s - and the food crisis it caused as prices soared and purchasing power shrank - captured the world's attention. From refugees fleeing the country to widespread hunger and poverty, the impact of hyperinflation was stark and distressing. Since the country's economy stabilized in 2009, various signals are showing that Zimbabwe is slowly making its way back to growth and stability.

The scale of the hyperinflation is summed up by Zimbabwe's eye-popping inflation rate. By December 2008, inflation was estimated at 6.5 quindeccillion novemdecillion percent (or 65 followed by 107 zeros -- 65 million googol) (Forbes Asia).

One recovery strategy is emerging in Zimbabwe's booming eating and drinking establishments. It seems the urge to socialize and network has become the source of economic vitality where so much else has been damaged.

The proliferation of coffee shops with wi-fi (wireless internet access) (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wi-Fi>) has spawned a new, connected business culture that is flexible and entrepreneurial.

Zimbabwe's unity government was formed in September 2008. By the beginning of 2009, the government relented on the crippling hyperinflation and allowed business to be conducted in the US dollar. This made it possible to save again and do business with greater predictability. At this time, the country had the world's highest inflation rate and the central bank printed a 100 trillion Zimbabwe dollar note.

The economic result of greater stability has been new shopping malls opening and a boom in new eating and drinking establishments.

During the hyperinflation, eating out was the last thing on most people's minds. Just surviving was the paramount daily task.

In the capital, Harare (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Harare>), the shopping mall Sam Levy's Village (<http://samlevysvillage.com>), in the prosperous Borrowdale area of the northern suburbs, is full of thriving coffee shops, restaurants and pubs.

Outside of the wealthy enclaves, coffee shops have sprung up in the city's art gallery, in sports clubs and a local supermarket chain.

While the coffees are still expensive relative to local wages, the Zimbabwe Online Hotspots (ZOL) (<http://www.zol.co.zw>) in the coffee shops have proved a big attraction. Most people in Zimbabwe have unreliable or non-existent electricity or, if lucky, poor-quality phone and internet dial-up in their homes.

ZOL Hotspots typically offer the first half hour of internet use for free. To surf longer, users must buy a voucher.

As the economy continues to mend from hyperinflation and the political crisis. People have now resorted to what they call "networking," according to Bryony Rheam in the Daily Telegraph newspaper. The functioning economy is all about making deals. And coffee shops with wi-fi are the perfect place to meet with a potential business partner.

But while the coffee shops are buzzing with people doing business, the proprietors still need to work out how to make better profits. Sales are still poor as people are mostly fixated on the wi-fi. One owner told the Telegraph: "We need to start charging people who sit here all day surfing the net."

It is the restaurants who seem to be enjoying the boost in incomes and better spirits after the economic troubles. Zimbabwe's black middle class are enjoying big occasions and celebrating with friends and family in restaurants.

"We went without for so long, that a lot of people almost see it as their right to spend money on eating out," one patron told the Telegraph.

More good news has come from outside investors as well: Amstel Securities NV (<http://www.amstelsec.com>), based in Amsterdam, Netherlands calls Zimbabwe's economy "the final frontier market in Africa". It believes the country has the potential to grow its GDP (gross domestic product) to US \$12 billion by 2015. The International Monetary Fund says the economy jumped from US \$4.4 billion in 2009 to US \$9 billion now.

In Amstel Securities' report, it pegs the dollarization of the economy as the reason for stability: "These improvements have made Zimbabwe a much more vibrant economy with good further recovery potential."

## Links

My Zimbabweinfo.com: A web portal packed with travel and services information on Zimbabwe.

Website: <http://zimbabwe.mydestinationinfo.com/en/restaurants-in-harare>

When Money Dies: The Nightmare of the Weimar Hyperinflation by Adam Ferguson.

Website: <http://www.amazon.co.uk/When-Money-Dies-Nightmare-Hyper-Inflation/dp/1906964440>

A guide to setting up wireless internet 'hot spots'.

Website: <http://wireless.navigator.co.uk/hotspots.htm>

## African Technology Tackles Health Needs

Africa is becoming a world leader in mobile phone applications for health and healthcare. Despite dramatic improvements to the quality of hospitals and the number of qualified doctors, the continent's healthcare services are still a patchwork, with rural and slum dwellers poorly served and the stresses of treating patients with contagious diseases like HIV/AIDS and malaria pushing resources to the limit.

But innovative inventions are coming along to provide new tools to doctors and medical personnel and to better engage patients with remote services.

South Africa's Afridoctor (<http://www.afridoctor.com>) mobile phone application claims to be Africa's first personal mobile health clinic. It lets patients use its "SnapDiagnosis" system to submit photos of their ailments and in turn receive advice from a panel of medical professionals, or use the mapping feature to find doctors, clinics and health industry-related services nearby.

Afridoctor was conceived to fill the gap across Africa for basic health information that is reliable and trustworthy.

There is an emergency feature to notify next of kin during a medical emergency and provide a location. Other features include symptom checkers, first-aid information, health calculators and quizzes.

Expert feedback comes within 48 hours after submission of a request.

A winner of a Nokia competition, Afridoctor was developed by the labs of media company 24.com (<http://20fourlabs.com>) of Cape Town, South Africa.

"It is more for external use - like dermatology - for things like a bee sting or a snake bite and you don't know what to do or how to diagnose it," Werner Erasmus, who created the app, told the BBC.

The "find a doctor" system uses Google Maps to geo-locate local health services including doctors, hospitals and emergency clinics.

The distress feature enables users to contact a family member or friend at the touch of a button. It does this by storing the mobile phone number of a selected relative. When the distress button is pressed, they are notified of the phone's location.

Developed in just three weeks, to enter mobile phone company Nokia's contest (<http://www.callingallinnovators.com>) for mobile phone applications, Afridoctor went on to win the competition in 2009. It is now being expanded to be usable on most, if not all, smart phones.

As in the rest of Africa, mobile phone use in South Africa has dramatically increased in the past 10 years. It is estimated that over 70 percent of South Africans now have access to one.

Another application getting attention is Ghana's mPedigree (<http://mpedigree.net>). Designed to combat the damage done by counterfeit drugs in Africa and across the South, mPedigree works by letting a person send a text message by mobile phone to the mPedigree service to check a drug's authenticity. A message comes back confirming whether the medicine is authentic or not.

The World Health Organization (WHO) has estimated that 25 percent of medicines sold around the developing world are counterfeit. Some contain no active ingredients, and others are even harmful.

mPedigree is a Ghanaian start-up headed by social entrepreneur Bright Simons (<http://www.worldpress.org/freelancers/index.cfm/hurl/page=freelancerDetails/id=7>). Like Afridoctor, it is ambitious and hopes to expand around the world. So far, the mPedigree Network has expanded its work to East Africa.

## **Links**

mPedigree uses cell phones to build networks to tackle and identify counterfeit drugs.

Website: <http://mpedigree.net/>

AirStrip Technologies: Securely sends vital patient information electronically to a doctor's mobile phone device.

Website: <http://www.airstriptechnology.com/>

Instant ECG: Uses the iPhone to interpret ECG (electro-cardiogram) waves

Website: <http://www.instantecg.org/>

iStethoscope: An application for the iPhone that turns the phone into an electronic stethoscope. Downloaded already by over 3 million doctors around the world, and is being praised for how it helps doctors in remote regions.

Website: <http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/istethoscope-pro/id322110006?mt=8>

OsiriX: An Open Source programme for computers and devices allowing doctors to stream medical imaging data live.

Website: <http://www.osirix-viewer.com/>

Star Analytical Services: Have developed an app that allows patients to cough into a phone and receive a diagnosis.

Website: <http://www.staranalyticalservices.com/>

## **African Media Changing to Reach Growing Middle Class**

Africa's growing middle classes are being targeted by a new generation of media entrepreneurs. This growing group of Africans is ambitious and intelligent, and they want media that matches their aspirational ways. Clever media people are stepping up to feed this trend.

The continent as a whole forms the 10th largest economy in the world. Of Africa's more than 1 billion people, 900 million can be classified as part of the consumer economy. Out of this group, a third - approximately 300 million people - make modest sums by Western standards, about US \$200 a month, but have spare cash to buy things like mobile phones, DVDs and new clothes, or pay for better schools. They are the population that is overlooked when attention is focused only on the very poor living on less than US \$2 a day.

Pulitzer Prize-winning Nigerian journalist Dele Olojede is one of several African media pioneers re-shaping the continent's media and taking it to the next level. Another is Godfrey Mwampembwa, whose popular puppet television show satirizes contemporary politics and current events and brings a welcome local flavour to a programming schedule packed with foreign imports.

A book by University of Texas professor Vijay Mahajan, *Africa Rising*, details the phenomenon of Africa's middle class consumer society. He calls this group of middle class consumers 'Africa 2', with the desperately poor called Africa 3s, and the extremely rich Africa 1s.

This new group has expanded far beyond just the ruling elites and government workers. Many of its members work in the private sector, as secretaries, computer entrepreneurs, merchants and others who have benefited from consistent growth rates in many African countries.

And because these people consume products and services - and advertising products and services are the lifeblood of private media - the opportunities are plentiful.

"I'm convinced that Africa is going to be built by Africa 2s," Mahajan told the Washington Post newspaper. "These are the people sending their kids to school . . . who are the most optimistic, the most forward-thinking."

Olojede, owner and publisher of Next newspaper (<http://234next.com/csp/cms/sites/Next/Home/index.csp>) in Nigeria's biggest city, Lagos, has been able to grab readers by breaking original stories and offering a quality, well-designed publication. Launched in 2008, it has its sights set on going continent-wide by 2011.

"There is a need for a newspaper for the African metropolitan middle classes, along the lines of the International Herald Tribune," he told Monocle magazine.

Olojede cut his teeth as a foreign editor for the US newspaper Newsday and has used this experience to make Next such a success.

Next has become the number one news website in Nigeria's highly competitive media scene.

Wisely, Olojede put design at the centre of making his newspaper and website stand out from the competition. He commissioned the experienced newspaper design team of Garcia Media ([http://garciamedia.com/blog/articles/in\\_west\\_africa\\_a\\_new\\_newspaper\\_is\\_born\\_--online\\_first](http://garciamedia.com/blog/articles/in_west_africa_a_new_newspaper_is_born_--online_first)) - who have designed for The Wall Street Journal, The Miami Herald and Die Zeit - to develop the template and prototypes.

Kenyan economist James Shikwati ([http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/James\\_Shikwati](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/James_Shikwati)) believes Africa's middle-income consumers are also a driving force for political change.

"It's empowering," he told the Washington Post. "If you give people a sense of freedom in the economic sector, then you deny it in the political sector, you have a problem."

Kenya-based newspaper cartoonist Gado (Godfrey Mwampembwa) has profited from this phenomenon. Fed up with TV channels sticking to a menu of foreign imports and dull news programmes, he looked to famous puppet TV shows Spitting Image (from Britain) and Les Guignols (from France) for inspiration. The result is the XYZ Show (<http://xyzshow.com/blog>), which features grotesque puppet caricatures of well-known public and political figures. The show's blog makes for an excellent entry point into African TV programme-making and its ups and downs. The show is broadcast on Citizen TV in Kenya's capital, Nairobi.

"I moved to Nairobi in 1992 when I was 23," Mwampembwa explained to Monocle. "The Daily Nation, the biggest newspaper in Kenya, had lost its editorial cartoonist so they ran a competition to look for his replacement. I sent in my drawings and came second."

"I took a year off in 2000-2001 to study film and animation in Vancouver. When I got back to Nairobi I started thinking about the sort of TV programme I would like to make. Kenya needed a show that would make fun of our politicians and expose hypocrisy and I thought a puppet show like Les Guignols or Spitting Image would be a great way to do it."

"We managed to raise funds for a pilot in 2007 and Citizen TV (<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Citizen-TV-Kenya/261061365404>), a private station, eventually agreed to broadcast a series."

Each episode costs US \$16,740 and the puppets are US \$3,600 to make. The programme-makers could only get money from foreign donors: the French, Dutch, and Finnish embassies and the Ford Foundation.

Despite initial complaints from politicians, the show is preparing for its second season - and, Mwampembwa said, "there will be a lot of big stories for us to cover."

Making a popular TV show is not an easy thing to do. Mwampembwa maintains a furious work pace to straddle his many roles:

"I have to draw a cartoon every day but editorial cartooning is not a nine-to-five job, it's 24/7. Whenever I get ideas I have to sketch them.

"It was a steep learning curve in the first season. The show is important for Kenyan TV and everything is done here in Nairobi. We won't change any of the politics though. We are very hard-hitting and we will stay that way.

"Over the years I've got nasty letters, emails and phone calls but that's OK, it's part of it."

As these media innovators show, there is nothing but opportunity for entrepreneurs feeding the hungry news and information appetite of the continent's ambitious middle class.

And Mwampembwa says becoming better informed doesn't have to be dull: "We are informing the public but I'd like to think we are entertaining them too."

## Links

Africa Rising: A book by Professor Vijay Mahajan on how Africa's consumer economy is growing and growing.

Website: <http://tinyurl.com/2vk3m9n>

## Brazil's Agricultural Success Teaches South How to Grow

Inflation, environmental stresses and population and economic growth are testing the world's food supply systems. There is a strong need to boost yields and improve the quality of food.

Between now and 2050 the world's population will rise from 7 billion to 9 billion. Urban populations will probably double and incomes will rise. City dwellers tend to eat more meat and this will boost demand.

The UN's Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) reckons grain output will have to rise by around half but meat output will have to double by 2050 to meet demand.

Two pioneering approaches to growing food in Brazil offer valuable lessons to countries looking to increase their food production.

One is taking place in Bahia state in north-eastern Brazil. On Brazil's cerrado (savannah) (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cerrado>), enormous farms grow cotton, soybeans and maize. One of them, Jatoba farm, has 24,000 hectares of land: vastly larger than comparable farms in the United States.

On the Cremaq farm in the north of the country in Piaui state, a transformation has taken place. Once a failed cashew farm, it is now a highly modern operation. Owned by BrasilAgro, it is benefiting from clever agricultural innovation that gets results.

BrasilAgro's approach is to buy derelict or neglected farms and give them a high-tech makeover. The 'makeover' includes radio transmitters tracking the weather, SAP software ([http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/SAP\\_AG](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/SAP_AG)), a well-organized work force under a gaucho (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gaucha>), new roads criss-crossing the fields, and a transport network of trucks to quickly get the food to ports for export. Piaui is an isolated place with few services: it can take half a day to get to a health clinic. Dependence on state welfare payments for survival is the norm for many residents.

Brazil, over 30 years, transformed itself from a food importer to one of the world's major food exporters. It is now considered alongside the 'Big Five' top grain exporters of America, Canada, Australia, Argentina and the European Union. Importantly, it is the first tropical nation to do this.

The value of Brazil's crops rose from US \$23 billion in 1996, to US \$62 bn in 2006. It is the world's largest exporter of poultry, sugar cane and ethanol, and there has been a tenfold increase in beef exports in a decade.

Brazil made these impressive achievements with few government subsidies. According to the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), state support accounted for just 5.7 percent of total farm income in Brazil from 2005-07. In the US it was 12 percent, while the OECD average is 26 percent and the level in the European Union is 29 percent.

And despite frequent alarming reports, much of the farming expansion has not happened at the expense of the Amazon forests.

The agricultural success is down to Embrapa (<http://www.embrapa.br/english>) - short for **Empresa Brasileira de Pesquisa Agropecuária**, or the **Brazilian Agricultural Research Corporation**. A public company set up in 1973, it has turned itself into the world's leading tropical research institution. It breeds new seeds and cattle and has developed innovations from ultra-thin edible wrapping paper for foodstuffs that turns colour when the food goes off to a nano-tech lab creating biodegradable ultra-strong fabrics and wound dressings.

Its biggest achievement has been turning the vast expanses of the cerrado green for agriculture. Norman Borlaug, an American plant scientist often called the father of the Green Revolution, told the New York Times that "nobody thought these soils were ever going to be productive." They seemed too acidic and too poor in nutrients.

Embrapa uses what its scientists call a "system approach": all the interventions work together. Improving the soil and developing new tropical soybeans were both needed for

farming the cerrado. The two together also made possible the changes in farm techniques which have boosted yields further.

Many believe this approach can be applied to Africa as well. There are several reasons to think it can. Brazilian land is like Africa's: tropical and nutrient-poor. The big difference is that the cerrado gets a decent amount of rain and most of Africa's savannah does not (the exception is the swathe of southern Africa between Angola and Mozambique).

Another approach that Brazil has been pioneering is making small, family farms sustainable and productive for the 21st century.

There has long been a tension between those who believe in very large farms, agribusiness and mono-crops (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mono-cropping>), and those who believe in having a large number of smaller farms with a wide variety of crops and animals.

But small farms have endured. The livelihoods of more than 2 billion people depend on the 450 million smallholder farms across the world. With their families, they account for a third of the world's population.

Family farms are critical to weathering economic crises and ensuring a steady and secure food supply. The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) ([www.ifad.org](http://www.ifad.org)) called in 2008 for small family farms to be put at the heart of the global response to high food prices and uncertain food security.

In Brazil, this call is being answered by a bold initiative to create what is termed a "social technology", combining a house building programme with diverse family farms.

The Brazilian farmers' cooperative Cooperhaf: Cooperativa de Habitacao dos Agricultores Familiares (<http://www.cooperhaf.org.br/>) – a World Habitat Awards winner - combines housing and farm diversification to support family farmers.

"Family farming is very important for the country – 70 percent of food for Brazilians comes from family farming," said Adriana Paola Paredes Penafiel, a projects adviser with the Cooperhaf. "The government wants to keep people in rural areas."

"We see the house as the core issue," she continued. "The farmers can improve their productivity but the starting point is the house."

Started in 2001 by a federation of farmers unions, the Cooperhaf works in 14 Brazilian states with family farmers. In Brazil farmers have a right to a house in the law and the cooperative was formed to make sure this happened.

"We promote diversification to make farmers less vulnerable: if they lose a crop in macro farming, they lose everything. We encourage diversification and self-consumption to guarantee the family has food everyday. We help to set up a garden."

The concept is simple: a good quality home acts as an anchor to the family farm, making them more productive as farmers. The farmers receive up to 6,000 reais (US \$2,290) for a house, and can choose designs from a portfolio of options from the Cooperhaf.

As in other countries, the Cooperhaf and other co-ops encourage markets and certification programmes to promote family farmed food and raise awareness. Penafiel says promoting the fact that the food is family farmed is critical: to the consumer it is healthier, fresher and contains fewer chemicals than imported produce.

"Most agri business is for export," said Penafiel. "If we don't have food in the country, food for poor communities would not be available. This enables farmers to be more autonomous, not having to buy fertilizers and equipment and take on too much debt. That approach is not sustainable...."

## **Links**

Africa Project Access: A South African company specializing in projects in sub-Saharan Africa and getting them finance.

Website: <http://www.africaprojectaccess.co.za/>

Silk Invest: A specialist investment fund targeting the fast-growing markets of Africa and the Middle East.

Website: <http://www.silkinvest.com/>

Olam: A global food supply company in 'agri-products' that got its start in Nigeria and shows how a Southern brand can grow and go global and overcome the difficulties of cross-border trade.

Website: [www.olamonline.com](http://www.olamonline.com)

Africa Rising: A book by Professor Vijay Mahajan on how Africa's consumer economy is growing and growing.

Website: <http://tinyurl.com/2vk3m9n>

## BOOKS

### **Green Gone Wrong: How Our Economy Is Undermining the Environmental Revolution**

by Heather Rogers, Publisher: Scribner

Website: [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com)

### **When Money Dies: The Nightmare of the Weimar Hyper-Inflation**

by Alan Fergusson, Publisher: Public Affairs.

Website: [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com)

### **Arrival City: How the Largest Migration in History is Reshaping Our World**

by Doug Saunders, Publisher: Pantheon.

Website: <http://arrivalcity.net/>

### **Urban World: A New Chapter in Urban Development**

Publisher: UNHABITAT

Website: <http://www.scribd.com/doc/31244004/Urban-World-A-New-Chapter-in-Urban-Development>

### **Favela: Four Decades of Living on the Edge in Rio de Janeiro**

by Janice Perlman, Publisher: OUP

Website: [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com)

### **Famine and Foreigners: Ethiopia Since Live Aid**

by Peter Gill, Publisher: OUP

Website: [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com)

### **Cities for All: Proposals and Experiences towards the Right to the City** editors Ana Sugranyes and Charlotte Mathivet

Publisher: Habitat International Coalition

Website: English: <http://www.hic-net.org/document.php?pid=3399>

Website: Spanish : <http://www.hic-net.org/document.php?pid=3400>

Website: Portuguese: <http://www.hic-net.org/document.php?pid=3401>

### **State of the Field in Youth Enterprise, Employment, and Livelihoods Development**

Publisher: Making Cents International

Website: [www.combinedacademic.co.uk](http://www.combinedacademic.co.uk)

### **Terrorism and the Economy: How the War on Terror is Bankrupting the World**

by Loretta Napoleoni, Publisher: Seven Stories Press

Website: <http://www.youthenterpriseconference.org>

### **War Games: The Story of Aid and War in Modern Times**

by Linda Polman, Publisher: Viking.

Website: [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com)

### **Globalization and Competition: Why Some Emergent Countries Succeed while Others Fall Behind**

by Luiz Carlos Bresser Pereira, Publisher: Cambridge University Press

Website: [http://www.networkideas.org/book/jan2010/bk12\\_GACL.htm](http://www.networkideas.org/book/jan2010/bk12_GACL.htm)

### **State of the World 2010: Transforming Cultures from Consumerism to Sustainability**

by Erik Assadourian & Staff, Publisher: Worldwatch Institute, 2010

Website: <http://www.worldwatch.org/sow10>

### **China: And the End of Poverty in Africa – Towards Mutual Benefit?**

by Penny Davis, Publisher: Diakonia and the European Network on Debt and Development

Website: [http://www.eurodad.org/uploadedFiles/Whats\\_New/Reports/Kinarapport\\_A4.pdf](http://www.eurodad.org/uploadedFiles/Whats_New/Reports/Kinarapport_A4.pdf)

## PAPERS

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### **The BRICSAM Countries and Changing World Economic Power: Scenarios to 2050**

by Manmohan Agarwal, Publisher: The Centre for International Governance Innovation.

*Working Paper: Shifting Global Power*

Africa and Mexico have the potential to change the balance of economic power in the world. This paper analyzes this potential building on developments in these economies over the past four decades in the context of the evolution of the world economy.

Website: [http://www.cigionline.com/sites/default/files/Paper\\_39-web-1.pdf](http://www.cigionline.com/sites/default/files/Paper_39-web-1.pdf)

### **The Implications of China's Ascendancy for Africa by Hany Besada**

*Publisher: The Centre for International Governance Innovation. Working Paper: Shifting Global Power*

This paper examines the extent to which China's engagement with Africa has produced mutual benefits for both and whether Africa is reaping the necessary benefits required for poverty alleviation and economic development.

Website: [http://www.cigionline.com/sites/default/files/Paper\\_40-web.pdf](http://www.cigionline.com/sites/default/files/Paper_40-web.pdf)

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### **The MDGs and Beyond: Pro-Poor Policy in a Changing World**

*by Andy Summer and Claire Melamed, Publisher: International Policy Centre for Inclusive Growth.*

Website: <http://www.pelicanweb.org/solisustv06n03page5sumnermelamed.html>

## **WEB BASED ARTICLES**

### **The Global Financial Crisis and Africa's "Immiserizing Wealth"**

Research Brief, United Nations University, Number 1 2010

Website: [http://www.unu.edu/publications/briefs/policy-briefs/2010/UNU\\_ResearchBrief\\_10-01.pdf](http://www.unu.edu/publications/briefs/policy-briefs/2010/UNU_ResearchBrief_10-01.pdf)

### **Africa begins to make poverty history**

US economists challenge conventional view that the continent is a basket case.

Website: <http://www.guardian.co.uk/business/2010/mar/03/africa-makes-poverty-history>

### **Triple Crisis Blog: Global Perspectives on Finance, Development and Environment**

Website: <http://triplecrisis.com/>

### **Where Western business sees 'risk', Chinese entrepreneurs see opportunity**

*by Dr Jing Gu*

Dr Gu and her China based team from the China-Africa Business Council (CABC) and the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS) have had direct access to private Chinese companies working in Africa, including 100 in-depth interviews with Chinese firms and business associations and officials in both China and Africa.

Website: <http://www.ids.ac.uk/go/news/where-western-business-sees-risk-chinese-entrepreneurs-see-opportunity>

### **Human Development Report 2009 Publisher: United Nations Development Programme**

The Report explores how better policies towards mobility can enhance human development

Website: [www.unp.un.org](http://www.unp.un.org)

### **China's Rise: Challenges and Opportunities**

*by Leslie Chang, Publisher: Picador.*

Website: [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com)

### **When China Rules the World**

*by C. Fred Bergstan, Charles Freeman, Nicholas R. Lardy and Derek J. Mitchell, Publisher: Peterson Institute for International Economics*

Website: [www.piie.com](http://www.piie.com)

### **Peoplequake: Mass Migration, Ageing Nations and the Coming Population Crash**

*by Fred Pearce, Publisher: Eden Project*

Website: [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com)

### **Raising the Global Floor: Dismantling the Myth That We Can't Afford Good Working Conditions for Everyone**

*by Jody Heyman and Alison Earle, Publisher: Stanford University Press*

Website: [www.sup.org](http://www.sup.org)

### **Half the Sky: Turning Oppression Into Opportunity for Women Worldwide**

*by Nicholas D. Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn, Publisher: Knopf*

Website: [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com)

### **Gravity Shift: How Asia's New Economic Powerhouses Will Shape the 21st Century**

*by Wendy Dobson, Publisher: Rotman UTP*

Website: [www.utpublishing.com](http://www.utpublishing.com)

### **Top African Banker Defends Investment from China**

## **Africa: Africa's Counter-Cyclical Policy Responses to the Crisis**

by Louis Kasekende, Zuzana Brixova and Leonce Ndikumana, *Journal of Globalization and Development*, Vol. 1, Issue 1, 2010, Article 16

Website: <http://www.afdb.org>

## **Upcoming Events**

### **September**

#### **Millennium Development Goals Summit**

*New York, USA (20-22 September 2010)*

With only five years left until the 2015 deadline to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has called on world leaders to attend a summit in New York on 20-22 September 2010 to boost progress towards the MDGs. Read the Secretary-General's report, "Keeping the Promise", which serves as the basis for Member States' deliberations on an action-oriented outcome document for the Summit. It identifies successes and gaps, and lays out an agenda for 2010-2015. "Our world possesses the knowledge and resources to achieve the MDGs," Mr. Ban says in the report. Falling short of the Goals "would be an unacceptable failure, moral and practical."

Website: <http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/>

#### **4th International Conference on CSR**

*Berlin, Germany (22-24 September 2010)*

The 4th International CSR-Conference at Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin is organized and hosted by the Institute of Management - Forum Business & Society - at the School of Business and Economics at Humboldt-University Berlin and by its program partners. Among the 500 participants are representatives from science, corporations, politics and governmental- as well as non-governmental organizations.

Website: <http://www2.wiwi.hu-berlin.de/institute/im/conf/berlin2010/>

#### **Chatham House Climate Change 2010 – The Way Forward in a post-Copenhagen World**

*London, UK (23-24 September 2010)*

The Chatham House Conference on Climate Change 2010, Climate Change: The way forward in a post-Copenhagen world will ask whether an international deal on climate will be reached in the next year. If not, what alternative forms of governance will emerge and what practical steps governments and business can take.

Website: <http://www.chathamhouse.org.uk/Climatechange10/-/?campaign=wbcscd>

#### **2010 Global Corporate Citizenship Conference**

*Washington, DC, USA (28-29 September 2010)*

The 21st century has led us to exciting opportunities for companies of all sizes, all types, to partner with governments and NGOs to advance human and economic progress. Opportunities are great, but so are the challenges. Join the U.S. Chamber BCLC and its Global Corporate Citizenship Working Group at this high-impact, results-focused event in Washington. Invaluable networking and information-sharing await you.

Website: <http://bclcgloba.uschamber.com/>

#### **Networks for Mobility 2010 Symposium**

*Stuttgart, Germany (30 September to 1 October 2010)*

The members of FOVUS -the Center for Transportation Research at the University of Stuttgart are delighted to officially invite you to register to attend the 5th international Symposium "Networks for Mobility" that will take place from September 30 to October 1, 2010 in Stuttgart, Germany.

Website: <http://www.uni-stuttgart.de/fovus/>

#### **Shared History: The Indian Experience in South Africa**

*Around South Africa (20 August to 30 September 2010)*

Commemorating the 150th anniversary of the arrival of Indians in South Africa. A festival of theatre, dance, film, food, literature, exhibitions and music.

Website: <http://www.sharedhistory.co.in/>

### **October**

#### **Base of the Pyramid 2010**

*Johannesburg, South Africa (5 October 2010)*

Millions of prospective consumers, suppliers and business partners form part of underserved low-income markets. What kinds of business strategies work best in these markets?

Website: <http://tinyurl.com/34dhqj9>

#### **Asia Microfinance Forum 2010**

Colombo, Sri Lanka (12-15 October 2010)

This milestone event will bring together leading microfinance practitioners, policymakers, financiers, academics and advocates from around the world to outline their visions and priorities, and explore new ideas, opportunities and partnerships. The BWTP network actively promotes the development of microfinance in Asia through research, advocacy, policy dialogue, information sharing and capacity building.

Website: <http://www.bwtp.org/news/?p=129>

### **eCommerce Expo**

London, UK (19-20 October 2010)

E Commerce Expo is right for anyone who is already engaged in e-commerce or thinking about it - Multi Channel, Pure Play or Start-up. If you are involved with, or support sales over the internet, you should attend. Every year sees dramatic changes in all aspects of e-commerce. From changes to the regulatory environment to improvements in technology, it's vitally important to keep up to date. Entry to E Commerce Expo, all conference sessions and the Google University is FREE of charge.

Website:

[http://www.ecommerceexpo.co.uk/page.cfm/EMSLinkClick=64\\_72\\_0\\_10807\\_2720\\_2254](http://www.ecommerceexpo.co.uk/page.cfm/EMSLinkClick=64_72_0_10807_2720_2254)

### **2010 International Conference on Intelligence and Information Technology**

University of Central Punjab, Lahore, Pakistan (28-30 October 2010)

The aim objective of ICIIT 2010 is to provide a platform for researchers, engineers, academicians as well as industrial professionals from all over the world to present their research results and development activities in Intelligence and Information Technology. This conference provides opportunities for the delegates to exchange new ideas and application experiences face to face, to establish business or research relations and to find global partners for future collaboration.

Website: <http://www.iciit.org/>

## **November**

### **Climate Dialogue 5-day Conference Series – 2010**

Hong Kong, China (3 to 7 November 2010)

One of the major climate change conferences in Hong Kong in 2010, with a large number of local and international experts as well cities from around the world will come to Hong Kong to share experiences and insights.

Website: <http://www.civic-exchange.org/eng/>

### **mHealth Summit**

Washington D.C., USA (8-10 November 2010)

The 2010 mHealth Summit is the key opportunity for leaders in government, private sector/industry, academia and not-for-profit organizations to share information and experiences related to the intersection of mobile technology, health research, and policy.

Website: <http://www.mhealthsummit.org/>

### **Water Investment World Africa 2010**

Johannesburg, South Africa (8-11 November 2010)

The Conference is positioned to the decision makers in this sector. With over 340million people in Africa without access to water and African governments' commitment to the Millennium Development Goals, a lot needs to be accomplished in a very short time in this sector.

Website: <http://www.terrapinn.com/2010/waterza/>

## **December**

### **Global Metro Summit: Delivering the Next Economy**

Chicago, USA (7-8 December 2010)

The two-day conference will examine the changing economic landscape of cities and their metropolitan regions in the US and internationally, to understand how cities are responding to economic instability and how they are harnessing the potential of the green economy to create jobs and support growth. With the participation of civic leaders, at an urban and national scale, and the presentation of new research by the Brookings Institution and the London School of Economics, the conference will identify a road-map to create and sustain low-carbon, opportunity-rich and export-orientated urban economies in a liveable urban environment. Key themes will include the role of federal investment in city growth and competitiveness, state-of-the-art sustainable policies and the creation of green jobs that can deliver a lasting economy for over half the world's population who are now city dwellers.

Website: <http://www.urban-age.net/conferences/chicago/>

### **International Conference on Information and Communication Technologies and Development**

London, UK (13-16 December 2010)

CALL FOR PAPERS: The call for papers and sessions at ICTD2010 has recently been announced - with a deadline for submissions of 2nd April 2010.

The conference is the latest in the series of highly successful international ICTD conferences

held in Doha (2009), Bangalore (2007) and Berkeley (2006). It aims to provide a forum for researchers, practitioners and all those with interests in the use of information and communication technologies in development practice to meet to discuss the latest research advances in the field.

Building on the success of its predecessors, ICTD2010 will combine two days of plenary peer-reviewed paper sessions, with two days of workshops, panel sessions, discussion forums, demos and sessions in both Spanish and French. A particular feature will be the opportunity that it will provide for participatory involvement from people from a diversity of backgrounds.

ICTD2010 is being hosted by the UNESCO Chair in ICT4D and the multidisciplinary ICT4D Research Centre at Royal Holloway, University of London's magnificent campus situated only 20 minutes from London's Heathrow airport.

Website: <http://www.ictd2010.org/>

### **NetSquared Camps**

*Various locations and times*

NetSquared Camps will bring people, tools, resources and projects together to help accelerate world-changing ideas. Check their website for a camp near you.

Website: <http://www.netsquared.org/>

## **2011**

### **Earth Summit 2012: Towards a World Summit on Sustainable Development in 2012**

*Rio, Brazil (TBC 2012)*

The United Nations General Assembly agreed to a new Earth Summit in December. The Summit will be in 2012 and will be hosted by Brazil. The themes are the Green Economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication, the institutional framework for sustainable development, emerging issues and a review of present commitments. This site will keep you abreast of all the developments and latest news.

Website: <http://www.earthsummit2012.org/>

## **Awards**

### **Philips Liveable Cities Award**

Philips are looking for individuals and community or non-government organizations and businesses with ideas for "simple solutions" that will improve people's health and well-being in a city to enter the Philips Liveable Cities Award. To help translate these ideas into reality, three Award grants totalling €125,000 are on the line. One overall winning idea from any of the three categories outlined below will receive a grant of €75,000, while the two additional ideas will receive grants of €25,000.

Website: <http://www.because.philips.com/livable-cities-award/about-the-award>

### **2010 Africa Awards for Entrepreneurship**

The 2010 Legatum Africa Awards for Entrepreneurship are now open for entries from the very best small and medium-sized businesses from across 15 countries in sub-Saharan Africa. The Grand Prize is US\$100,000 with a further five runners-up winning prizes of US\$50,000 each.

Website: [www.africaawards.com](http://www.africaawards.com)

### **African Economic Outlook**

A unique online tool that puts rigorous economic data, information and research on Africa at your fingertips. A few clicks gives access to comprehensive analyses of African economies, placed in their social and political contexts. This is the only place where African countries are examined through a common analytical framework, allowing you to compare economic prospects at the regional, sub-regional and country levels.

Website: [www.africaneconomicoutlook.org/en](http://www.africaneconomicoutlook.org/en)

### **APPLY NOW! World Habitat Awards 2010/2011:**

The World Habitat Awards were established in 1985 by the Building and Social Housing Foundation as part of its contribution to the United Nations International Year of Shelter for the Homeless. Two awards are given annually to projects from the global North as well as the South that provide practical and innovative solutions to current housing needs and problems. Every year an award of £10,000 is presented to each of the two winners at the annual United Nations global celebration of World Habitat Day. Travel and accommodation costs are also met for one representative of each winning project to attend the awards ceremony.

Transitions Online (TOL) is pleased to announce the launch of the 2009 TOL Photo Competition.

The topic is "20 Years After the Fall of the Iron Curtain", and TOL encourages participants to submit photographs that best capture the changes over the past 20 years in Central and Eastern Europe.

DEADLINE: December 13, 2009.

[Website: http://www.worldhabitatawards.org/enter/apply.cfm?lang=00](http://www.worldhabitatawards.org/enter/apply.cfm?lang=00)  
[Website: http://www.tol.cz/look/TOL/article.tpl?IdLanguage=1&IdPublication=18&NrIssue=1&NrSection=70&NrArticle=20946](http://www.tol.cz/look/TOL/article.tpl?IdLanguage=1&IdPublication=18&NrIssue=1&NrSection=70&NrArticle=20946)

### Appeal for Help

MobileActive.org are updating their database of mobile applications used for health, social development, agriculture, advocacy, education, civic media, human rights, and other civil society areas. If you have or are developing a mobile application used in any area of social development, please enter it in the MobileActive database. There is currently no comprehensive database of mobile applications for social development available but they are building it with people's help.

[Website: http://www.zoomerang.com/Survey/survey-intro.zgi?p=WEB228VQ3HV6D3](http://www.zoomerang.com/Survey/survey-intro.zgi?p=WEB228VQ3HV6D3)

### MobileTech4SocialChange

They have also set up a Wiki with the latest notices about upcoming events around the world.

[Website: http://mobiletech4socialchange.pbworks.com/](http://mobiletech4socialchange.pbworks.com/)

## Training Opportunities

### Ongoing

#### Grameen Bank Microcredit Training Programs

[Website: www.grameen-info.org](http://www.grameen-info.org)

#### The Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) Courses

The Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), one of the USA's best known private universities, has made all 1,800 courses in its curriculum (environmental sciences, computer studies, physics...) available free on-line, using an open source system called OpenCourseWare (OCW). Each month, some 1.5 million surfers, most of them based outside the USA, follow the lessons and lectures in PDF, audio and video formats, some are also translated into French and Portuguese. MIT is working with other universities to help them set up their own OCW.

[Website: ocw.mit.edu](http://ocw.mit.edu)

#### Sustainable Tourism Criteria

The criteria focus on four areas experts recommend as the most critical aspects of sustainable tourism: maximizing tourism's social and economic benefits to local communities; reducing negative impacts on cultural heritage; reducing harm to local environments; and planning for sustainability. The GSTC Partnership is developing educational materials and technical tools to guide hotels and tour operators in implementing the criteria.

[Website: www.sustainableTourismCriteria.org](http://www.sustainableTourismCriteria.org)

#### Two Workshops Offered for Development Practitioners

The community-managed microfinance course deals with providing sustainable financial services for the very poor. Although MFIs are well-established, they have mostly failed to penetrate remote rural areas because the costs are too high and the demand for credit too small. Meanwhile, over the last 15 years, massive, sustainable programmes have emerged that reach this target group at very low cost, based on autonomous, small-scale savings and loan associations. Co-sponsored by the SNHU Community Economic Development Masters Program at the Open University of Tanzania and VSL Associates.

[Website: http://rs6.net](http://rs6.net)

### Careers

#### Development Executive Group Devex Networking Website

Over 90,000 global experts can network and connect and learn about more than 47,000 registered projects.

[Website: www.devex.org](http://www.devex.org)

#### New Website Offers Career Advice to Young Africans

Set up by the Commonwealth Secretariat, [Africacareerguidance.com](http://Africacareerguidance.com) is aimed at providing career guidance to African youth and helping them to link with prospective employers. AfricaRecruit is a human resources organisation that provides skills training for African professionals in the Diaspora and on the continent. The website has an inbuilt email subscriber list for all its users and offers a searchable database of career profiles for job seekers and prospective employers. It also offers skills and interest assessments and advice on CV and [sum@sum.africa](mailto:sum@sum.africa) preparation. It provides tips about interviewing techniques, as well as information on internship and volunteer opportunities, and entrepreneurial skills.

[Website: www.africacareerguidance.com](http://www.africacareerguidance.com)

#### African Diaspora Skills Database

This database was compiled to provide an overview of qualified African Diaspora professionals with varied areas of expertise and experience. The African Diaspora contributes substantially to the social, economic and political development of Africa, and this database is set up to further mobilize this considerable potential.

[Website: www.diaspora-centre.org](http://www.diaspora-centre.org)

### **Aid Workers Network (AWN)**

Aid Workers Network (AWN) is an online platform for aid, relief and development workers to ask and answer questions of each other, and to exchange resources and information. AWN is registered in the United Kingdom as a charity. You will find discussions about a range of questions and issues on the AWN forum from aid, relief and development workers all over the world and representing a variety of fields, with new threads or responses posted daily. The forum is a great way to get in contact with other aid and development workers in your geographic area or working in a similar area of work.

Website: [www.aidworkers.net](http://www.aidworkers.net)

### **Bizzlounge**

Bizzlounge is where people committed to ethical behaviour meet, who want to establish and maintain business contacts in an exclusive and relaxed environment.

Website: [bizzlounge.com](http://bizzlounge.com)

### **Business Action for Africa**

Business Action for Africa is a network of businesses and business organisations working collectively to accelerate growth and poverty reduction in Africa.

Website: [businessactionforafrica.blogspot.com](http://businessactionforafrica.blogspot.com)

### **Business Fights Poverty**

Business Fights Poverty is a professional network for all those passionate about fighting world poverty through the power of good business.

Website: [businessfightspovetry.ning.com](http://businessfightspovetry.ning.com)

### **Business in Development Network (BiD)**

The BiD Network Foundation runs the BiD Challenge to contribute to sustainable economic development by stimulating entrepreneurship in developing countries.

Website: [www.bidnetwork.org](http://www.bidnetwork.org)

### **Catalogue of Poverty Networks**

UNDP is organizing an online catalogue of Poverty Networks as a means to facilitate access to knowledge and sharing this to a wider audience in 189 countries. Poverty Networks are web-based platforms that provide space for sharing and disseminating development-related information and initiatives. Below you will find information on IPC's collaborating networks, which help foster dialogue between researchers, policymakers, civil society and multilateral organisations.

Website: [www.undp-povertycentre.org](http://www.undp-povertycentre.org)

### **Connections for Development (CfD)**

CfD is a UK, Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) led, membership based organisation committed to ensuring that UK BME communities, and the organisations they are involved in, are supported in the process of shaping and delivering policy and projects that affect their countries of origin or interest collectively our world

Website: [www.cfdnetwork.co.uk](http://www.cfdnetwork.co.uk)

### **Development Crossing**

Development Crossing was set up in 2006 by a small group of friends with diverse backgrounds ranging from business consulting to international development. In a world where the environment, corporate responsibility, and sustainable development are becoming increasingly intertwined, our goal was to create a site where individuals that shared our passion could keep up-to-date with relevant happenings in the world and connect with like-minded individuals. The idea behind Development Crossing is to provide a social network that brings together people from a variety of sectors, countries and professions to discuss corporate social responsibility and sustainable development.

Website: [www.developmentcrossing.com](http://www.developmentcrossing.com)

### **DevelopmentAid.org**

The one-stop-information-shop for the developmental sector, DevelopmentAid.org is a membership organization that brings together information for developmental professionals, NGOs, consultancy firms and donors.

Website: [www.developmentaid.org](http://www.developmentaid.org)

### **dgCommunities on the Development Gateway**

dgCommunities, a free online service by the Development Gateway Foundation is devoted to knowledge-sharing and collaboration for people working to reduce poverty in the developing world.

Website: [topics.developmentgateway.org](http://topics.developmentgateway.org)

### **Diaspora African Forum**

This Forum exists "to invite and encourage the full participation of Africans in the Diaspora in the building of the African Union, in its capacity as an important part of the Continent". We will provide the vital linkage for Diaspora Africans to become involved in Africa's development as well as reap the fruits of African unity.

Website: [www.diasporafricanforum.org](http://www.diasporafricanforum.org)

### **Eldis Communities**

Eldis aims to share the best in development, policy, practice and research. The Eldis Community is a free on-line community where you can meet others involved in international development and discuss the issues that are important to you.

Website: [community.eldis.org](http://community.eldis.org)

### **Enterprise Development Exchange**

The Enterprise Development Exchange links related communities of practice to advance sustainable poverty eradication. It is facilitated by The SEEP Network through the Value Initiative.

[Website: edexchange.seepnetwork.org](http://edexchange.seepnetwork.org)

### **Food Security and Nutrition (FSN) Forum**

The FSN Forum is a global community of FSN practitioners. It bridges the knowledge divide among the different communities involved in FSN policies and strategies - such as academics, researchers and development practitioners - to improve cooperation and impacts; members in many countries across the world's five continents.

[Website: http://km.fao.org/fsn/](http://km.fao.org/fsn/)

### **Global Development Matters**

Global Development Matters is designed to engage U.S. citizens and leaders in examining how rich world policies affect global poverty reduction. There is an Election '08 blog.

[Website: www.globaldevelopmentmatters.org](http://www.globaldevelopmentmatters.org)

### **GTZ-Communities Sustainable Economic Development**

The GTZ-Communities Sustainable Economic Development are open to all practitioners, counterparts, research institutions, donors and interested consultants worldwide facilitating an inter agency exchange of experiences and best practices. This weekly updated website provides you with recent news and lessons learned from GTZ as well as from other development agencies and research institutions in the field of economic development. Its core is a comprehensive database. Participation in this open community is free of charge. However, registration is necessary.

[Website: Africa](#) | [Middle East and North Africa](#) | [Asia](#)

### **LED knowledge**

This website is an online space for sharing the experiences and resources of people and organizations supporting local economic development processes at the local level. LED Knowledge is the result of a joint effort of the ILO-LED programme team based in Geneva, and the ILO training arm, the International Training Centre, based in Turin, Italy.

[Website: www.ledknowledge.org](http://www.ledknowledge.org)

### **Network of Networks Impact Evaluation Initiative (Nonie)**

Nonie is a network of networks for impact evaluation comprised of the DAC Evaluation Network, The United Nations Evaluation Group (UNEG), the Evaluation Cooperation Group (ECG), and a fourth network drawn from the regional evaluation associations. Its purpose is to foster a program of impact evaluation activities based on a common understanding of the meaning of impact evaluation and approaches to conducting impact evaluation.

[Website: www.worldbank.org/ieg/nonie/](http://www.worldbank.org/ieg/nonie/)

### **TakingITGlobal.org**

TakingITGlobal.org is an online community that connects youth to find inspiration, access information, get involved, and take action in their local and global communities.

[Website: profiles.takingitglobal.org](http://profiles.takingitglobal.org)

### **XING Group Microfinance Industry**

In this new XING Group, microfinance professionals from all over the globe link and discuss topics of interest. Use this forum to discuss financial technology, find employment, identify training opportunities and events, and share knowledge resources with fellow members of the microfinance industry. XING is an online networking tool to manage all personal contacts and to find interesting new business contacts. It's amazing how quickly it facilitates contact with key people.

[Website: www.xing.com/](http://www.xing.com/)

### **AfDevinfo - African Development Information Service**

AfDevinfo tracks the mechanics of political and economic development across Sub Saharan Africa. They draw together a diverse range of publicly available data and present it as an accessible and ever expanding online database.

[Website: www.afdevinfo.com](http://www.afdevinfo.com)

### **Growing Inclusive Markets (GIM)**

The Growing Inclusive Markets Initiative has created a set of data, information and analytical products that will increase understanding of the markets of the poor, including existing opportunities and challenges.

[Website: www.growinginclusivemarkets.org](http://www.growinginclusivemarkets.org)

## **Fellowship Opportunities**

### **Africa Entrepreneurship Platform**

This ground breaking initiative is created as a forum to showcase innovative ideas and businesses from Africa that have the ability to scale internationally driving job creation and sustainable economic development between Africa and the Americas.

[Website: www.sacca.biz](http://www.sacca.biz)

### **Piramal Foundation in India**

Has established a US \$25,000 prize for ideas that help advance full access to effective public health care in India. The Piramal Prize is a \$25,000 Social Entrepreneurship Competition focused on democratizing health care in India that seeks to encourage and support bold entrepreneurial ideas which can profoundly impact access to higher standards of health for India's rural and marginalized urban communities. The award recognizes high-impact, scalable business models and innovative solutions that directly or indirectly address India's health-care crisis.

[Website: www.piramalprize.org/](http://www.piramalprize.org/)

### **The Pioneers of Prosperity Grant and Award**

This competition is a partnership between the OTF Group and the John F. Templeton

Foundation of the United States, and promotes companies in East Africa by identifying local role models that act as examples of sustainable businesses in their country/region. It is open to businesses from Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Burundi and Rwanda.

Website: [pioneersofprosperity.org](http://pioneersofprosperity.org)

#### **African Writers Fund**

Together with the Ford Foundation, the Fund supports the work of independent creative writers living on the continent. The Fund recognizes the vital role that poets and novelists play in Africa by anticipating and reflecting the cultural, economic and political forces that continuously shape and reshape societies.

Website: [www.trustafrica.org](http://www.trustafrica.org)

#### **Joint NAM S&T Centre - ICCS Fellowship Programme**

Centre for Science and Technology of the Non-Aligned and Other Developing Countries (NAM S&T Centre) and International Center for Chemical Sciences (ICCS), (H.E.J. Research Institute of Chemistry and Dr. Panjwani Center for Molecular Medicine and Drug Research), University of Karachi, Karachi, Pakistan.

Email: [namstct@vsnl.com](mailto:namstct@vsnl.com)

Website: [www.scidev.net](http://www.scidev.net)

#### **Development Executive Group Devex Networking Website**

Over 90,000 global experts can network and connect and learn about more than 47,000 registered projects.

Website: [www.devex.org](http://www.devex.org)

#### **Oxford Said Business School Youth Business Development Competition**

Open to youth between 16 and 21 across the world, the competition is run by students at Oxford University to promote social enterprise. A prize fund of Â£2,000 in seed capital is up for grabs. It calls itself the world's first global youth development competition.

Website: [More Information](#)

#### **US\$250,000 for Best Lab Design**

AMD and Architecture for Humanity have announced a prize of \$250,000 for the best design for a computer lab that can be adapted and implemented in third-world countries.

Website: [www.openarchitecturenetwork.org](http://www.openarchitecturenetwork.org)

#### **PhD Plant Breeding Scholarships at the University of Ghana**

The [University of Ghana](#) has been awarded a project support grant by the [Alliance for a Green Revolution](#) in Africa (a joint venture between the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and the Rockefeller Foundation, for the establishment of a West African Centre for Crop Improvement (WACCI). This is available to scientists working at NARIs, universities and international centres in West Africa. Women scientists are especially encouraged to apply for a fellowship under this programme.

Website: [www.acci.org.za](http://www.acci.org.za)

#### **Institute of Social Studies in The Hague**

A collaboration between 25 international think tanks in international development, [www.focuss.info](http://www.focuss.info) is a search engine for indexing and social book marking online resources in international development.

Website: <http://focuss.info/>

#### **Genesis: India's Premier Social Entrepreneurship Competition**

A social entrepreneurship competition aiming to bring together social entrepreneurs, students, NGOs, innovators, incubators, corporations and financiers and encourage them to come up with innovative ideas which are socially relevant and feasible.

Website: <http://genesis.iitm.ac.in>

#### **Echoing Green: Social Entrepreneurs Fund**

They are looking for social entrepreneurs developing new solutions to social problems. They are accepting applications for their 2008 fellowships (two-year funding of up to US \$90,000 for 20 entrepreneurs).

Website: [www.echoinggreen.org](http://www.echoinggreen.org)

#### **Funding**

#### **UNESCO: International Centre for South-South Co-operation in Science, Technology and Innovation**

The International Centre for South-South Co-operation in Science, Technology and Innovation was inaugurated in Kuala Lumpur in May 2008. The centre functions under the auspices of UNESCO. It facilitates the integration of a developmental approach into national science and technology and innovation policies, and provides policy advice. In parallel to organizing capacity-building and the exchange of experience and best practices, the centre conducts research and tackles specific problems in science, technology and innovation policy-making in developing countries.

Website: [www.unesco.org](http://www.unesco.org)

#### **Funding - Google.org**

While SMEs in rich countries represent half of GDP, they are largely absent from the formal economies of developing countries. Today, there are trillions of investment dollars chasing returns and SMEs are a potentially high impact, high return investment. However, only a trickle of this capital currently reaches SMEs in developing countries. Our goal is to increase this flow.

Website: [www.google.org](http://www.google.org)

#### **Challenge InnoCentive**

A challenge to the world's inventors to find solutions to real scientific and technological problems affecting the poor and vulnerable.

Website: <http://www.innocentive.com>

### **Global Social Benefit Incubator: A US \$20,000 Bottom of the Pyramid Scholarship**

Offered by Santa Clara University's Global Social Benefit Incubator, it selects 15 to 20 enterprises from developing countries and provides an eight-month mentoring process. This ends with a 10-day process in Santa Clara, where entrepreneurs work with their mentors.

Website: <http://www.socialedge.org>

### **Job Opportunities**

- [Africa Recruit Job Compendium](#)
- [Africa Union](#)
- [CARE](#)
- [Christian Children's Fund](#)
- [ECOWAS](#)
- [International Crisis Group](#)
- [International Medical Corps](#)
- [International Rescue Committee](#)
- [Internews](#)
- [IREX](#)
- [Organization for International Migration](#)
- [Oxfam](#)
- [Relief Web Job Compendium \(UN OCHA\) \(1\)](#)
- [Relief Web Job Compendium \(UN OCHA\) \(2\)](#)
- [Save the Children](#)
- [The Development Executive Group job compendium](#)
- [Trust Africa](#)
- [UN Jobs](#)
- [UNDP](#)
- [UNESCO](#)
- [UNICEF](#)
- [World Bank](#)
- [World Wildlife Fund \(Cameroon\)](#)



Please feel free to send your comments, feedback and/or suggestions to Cosmas Gitta [[cosmas.gitta@undp.org](mailto:cosmas.gitta@undp.org)] Chief, Division for Policy, Special Unit for South-South Cooperation